

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:
tuning means (22) for tuning signals including emergency alert signals capable
5 of activating said emergency alert function; and
processing means (27) for enabling a disabled audio output device associated
with said apparatus (20) responsive to activation of said emergency alert function.

2. The apparatus (20) of claim 1, wherein said disabled audio output
10 device includes an internal speaker (25) of said apparatus (20).

3. The apparatus (20) of claim 1, wherein said disabled audio output
device is operatively connected to an audio output terminal of said apparatus (20).

4. The apparatus (20) of claim 1, wherein said processing means (27)
15 further enables a first alert output via said audio output device responsive to
activation of said emergency alert function.

5. The apparatus (20) of claim 4, wherein said processing means (27)
20 further enables a second alert output via a secondary device responsive to activation
of said emergency alert function.

6. The apparatus (20) of claim 5, wherein said secondary device includes
25 a telephone (40).

7. The apparatus (20) of claim 5, wherein said secondary device includes
a computer (52-55).

8. The apparatus (20) of claim 5, wherein said secondary device includes
30 a television signal receiver (60).

9. The apparatus (20) of claim 5, wherein said secondary device includes
a visual output device (70).

10. A method (300) for controlling an apparatus (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

tuning signals including emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function (302); and

5 enabling a disabled audio output device associated with said apparatus (20) responsive to activation of said emergency alert function (307).

11. The method (300) of claim 10, wherein said disabled audio output device includes an internal speaker (25) of said apparatus (20).

10 12. The method (300) of claim 10, wherein said disabled audio output device is operatively connected to an audio output terminal of said apparatus (20).

13. The method (300) of claim 10, further comprised of enabling a first alert
15 output via said audio output device responsive to activation of said emergency alert function (308).

14. The method (300) of claim 13, further comprised of enabling a second
20 alert output via a secondary device responsive to activation of said emergency alert function (308).

15. The method (300) of claim 14, wherein said secondary device includes a telephone (40).

25 16. The method (300) of claim 14, wherein said secondary device includes a computer (52-55).

17. The method (300) of claim 14, wherein said secondary device includes a television signal receiver (60).

30 18. The method (300) of claim 14, wherein said secondary device includes a visual output device (70).

19. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

a tuner (22) operative to tune signals including emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function; and

5 a processor (27) operative to enable a disabled audio output device associated with said television signal receiver (20) responsive to activation of said emergency alert function.

20. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 19, wherein said disabled
10 audio output device includes an internal speaker (25) of said television signal receiver (20).

21. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 19, wherein said disabled
15 audio output device is operatively connected to an audio output terminal of said television signal receiver (20).

22. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 19, wherein said processor
20 (27) is further operative to enable a first alert output via said audio output device responsive to activation of said emergency alert function.

23. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said processor
(27) is further operative to enable a second alert output via a secondary device responsive to activation of said emergency alert function.

25 24. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 23, wherein said secondary device includes a telephone (40).

25. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 23, wherein said secondary
30 device includes a computer (52-55).

26. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 23, wherein said secondary
device includes a television signal receiver (60).

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27. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 23, wherein said secondary device includes a visual output device (70).